

A                    NADAR MAHAJAN SANGAM S. VELAICHAMY  
                         NADAR KALLOORI AND ORS.

v.

DISTRICT REGISTRAR (SOCIETIES AND ORS.)

B    APRIL 7, 1997

[K. RAMASWAMY AND D.P. WADHWA, JJ.]

*Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 :*

C                    *Society—N.M.S.S. Vellaichamy Nadar College—Expiry of term of  
Society Committee—Elections not held—Suit—Trial Judge directing the  
Registrar to conduct enquiry—In the meanwhile in the writ petition filed, High  
Court held that Trial Judge abdicated his judicial functioning by directing the  
Registrar to conduct an enquiry—Appeal before Supreme Court—Direction  
D issued to Trial Court to appoint Local Commissioner—Commissioner to con-  
duct elections afresh in accordance with law—The Trial Court shall pass  
appropriate orders in the light of the report of the Commissioner and dispose  
of the suit accordingly.*

E                    CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION : Civil Appeal Nos. 2880-82  
of 1997.

From the Judgment and Order dated 9.1.97 of the Madras High  
Court in C.M.A. No. 843/96, W.P. Nos. 9771 and 12007 of 1996.

F                    Kapil Sibal, D.D. Thakur, P.P. Rao V. Laxminarayan, Ms. Bina  
Gupta and Ms. Rakhi Ray for the Appellants.

S. Siva Subramaniam, S. Subbaiah and K.V. Vijayakumar for the  
Respondents.

G                    The following Order of the Court was delivered :

Leave granted.

These appeals by special leave arise from the judgment of the  
Division Bench of the Madras High Court, made on January 9, 1997 in  
H CMA No. 843/96 and WP Nos. 9771 and 12007/96.

N.M.S.S. Vellaichamy Nadar College was established by Nadar Mahajan Sangam in the year 1965 and election to the Society which runs the college, is the bone of the contention. Untrammelled by procedural formats and its ramifications in the process of election, the heart of the matter is good management of the college. Who is entitled to run the institution and administer property of the said institution is the crux of the question. It is not in dispute that though the term of the previous Society Committee expired on March 31, 1966, elections could not be held for one reason or the other. As a consequence, at the pain of the entrustment of the management to the third agency, elections came to be held on June 9, 1996, which proved to be an abortive attempt. Consequent thereon, a complaint was made to the Registrar in Form No. 7 on June 12, 1996. An enquiry appears to have been held by the Registrar which failed in the process from legal perspectives but the report was submitted on June 19, 1996. In the meanwhile, OS No. 417/96 was filed for perpetual injunction. An interim mandatory injunction was issued in I.A. No. 292/96 directing the District Registrar appointed under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (for short, the 'Act') to find out factual position and then to submit the report. In the meanwhile, writ petitions came to be filed. Ultimately, the Division Bench came to the conclusion that the learned trial Judge had abdicated his functioning as an adjudicatory authority; he should have recorded the evidence and the findings by himself. Instead, he directed the Registrar to conduct an enquiry and, thereby it is a case of abdication of judicial functioning. Accordingly, the impugned order was passed.

We have heard learned counsel for both the parties. With a view to shorten the litigation, the appropriate course would be as under :

The Civil Court is directed to appoint an Advocate as a Commissioner. The Advocate-Commissioner would take all the members of the Society existing as on May 14, 1996 as valid members. He should conduct the elections afresh in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the bye-laws of the Society. Till the elections are held, the Principal shall continue to hold charge of the management of the institution and will act as Receiver of the Court under Order XL, Rule 1, CPC. He shall be answerable to the Court. On receipt of the report from the Advocate-Commissioner, the civil Court shall pass appropriate orders in the light of the report thus submitted and dispose of the suit accordingly. The expenditure

- A incurred and fees of the Advocate-Commissioner should be as determined by the civil Court. Elections are directed to be conducted within a period of six weeks from the date of the appointment of the Advocate-Commissioner by the trial Court. The trial Court is directed to appoint the Commissioner within two weeks from the date of the receipt of the order.
- B The trial Court is directed to dispose of the suit, after the election report is submitted, within three months thereafter. The fee of the Advocate-Commissioner should be determined by the trial Court. The same shall be borne by the successful party. Initially, the same may be paid by the Principal from the College funds and later recovered by the College from the successful party to the suit.

- C The appeals are accordingly disposed of. No costs.

T.N.A.

Appeals disposed of.